

From Roger Mendel, Director of Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative and Chair of the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association

It s appropriate that this reception is held on Inauguration Day. A Friend of mine once said on this day, Ask not what your state librarian can do for you, ask what you can do for your state librarian. And in 2000 Christie Brandau came to this blue state from a red state.

She asked us to work together, public, school, academic and special libraries and we did and found we have more things in common then not.

She asked us to put all our collections together in a statewide catalog and we are doing just that, MelCat was launched in January.

She asked us to identify special collections and to digitize them and make them available on the Internet and we are doing that and there is special money in the LM budget to assist libraries.

She asked us to work out a system to deliver those books and materials that customers locate in MeLCat and do it cheaply and efficiently and we are doing that.

She asked us to get all libraries connected to the Internet and to expand their bandwidth and we are doing that.

She asked us to help the unemployed find out about employment, and writing effective resumes at our libraries and we are doing that.

She asked the Cooperatives in the state to help with her vision and we did.

And she asked many of us in this room to go out and about Michigan and perform in a Road Show to promote the things that were happening to assist library users in accessing information and programs and we did and some of us can never show our faces again in some areas of the state.

Thank you for asking us to help you. I just wonder what she has in store for the folks in Kansas.